

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-05 DRC-01 RSC-01 /018 W

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R 211648Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3903

UNCLAS CARACAS 04550

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, VE

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS CHARGES FOR INSTRU/METAL 74 EXHIBITOR
DAMON/IEC DIVISION

REF: STATE 104685

1. EMBASSY GENERAL SERVICES CHECKED WITH GLOBAL, SERVICARGO AND DAMON AGENT COLIMODIO. STATUS OF CHARGES LEVIED ON DAMON ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- A) VENEZUELAN IMPORT DUTY - BS. 4,853.67
- B) 3.5 PERCENT CUSTOMS SERVICE FEE - BS. 3,397.57
- C) PORT UNLOADING CHARGES - BS. 36.65
- D) FINE A UNDER ARTICLE 152 CUSTOMS LAW - BS. 75
FINE J UNDER ARTICLE 152 CUSTOMS LAW - BS. 100
- E) CUSTOMS STORAGE CHARGES - BS. 4,530.10

2. RE CHARGES IN PARAGRAPH ONE: A) IMPORT DUTY LEGITIMATE SINCE EQUIPMENT WAS SOLD TO VENEZUELAN BUYER. IMPORT DUTY NORMALLY PAID BY VENEZUELAN IMPORTER. WITHOUT SEEING DOCUMENTS, EMBASSY ASSUMES CHARGE WAS ASSESSED UNDER FIVE PERCENT DUTY CATEGORY; B) THIS LEGITIMATE AND STANDARD CHARGE, EVEN FOR DUTY-FREE IMPORTS; C) THIS LEGITIMATE CHARGE; D) FINES IMPOSED TOTAL SLIGHTLY OVER U.S. \$40 AND ARE NOT WORTH EITHER TIME OR EFFORT TO PROTEST; E) THIS ITEM HAS NOT BEEN PAID. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED GLOBAL PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW TO HAVE CHARGE VOIDED, SINCE EQUIPMENT WAS NEVER STORED CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE. EVEN IF AGENT REQUIRED TO PAY THIS ITEM, IT CAN BE LEGITIMATELY PROTESTED AND PROBABLY REIMBURSED. HOWEVER, IF AGENT FOLLOWS EMBASSY ADVICE, CHARGE WILL MOST LIKELY UNCLASSIFIED

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BE DROPPED.

3. FROM ABOVE IT APPEARS DAMON IS EITHER CONFUSED ABOUT CHARGES,
OR IS BEING MIS-INFORMED IN ATTEMPT BY AGENT TO HAVE U.S. COMPANY
PAY FEES WHICH ARE OBLIGATION OF AGENT OR BUYER.

4. DAMON SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY INVESTIGATIONS,

VENEZUELAN CUSTOMS FINES TOTAL ONLY BS. 175, AND THAT ARRANGEMENT
FOR SETTLEMENT OF OTHER CHARGES MUST BE BETWEEN U.S. COMPANY AND
ITS AGENT, OR BETWEEN AGENT AND VENEZUELAN BUYER.
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